

Health Risk Behaviors Among Grades 7-8

Montana Grades 7-8 and High School Comparisons of Selected Elements

Sources: 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (OPI)

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data (percent of students who...)	Grades 7-8¹				Montana High School 2007²
	2001	2003	2005	2007	
Carried a weapon in the past 30 days	24.3	22.1	24.5	~	22.1
Carried a gun in the past 30 days	12.9	10.8	11.5	~	7.8
Carried a weapon on school property in the past 30 days	5.9	6.2	5.5	~	9.7
Did not go to school in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe	6.5	6.6	6.2	~	4.2
Were in a physical fight in the past 12 months	40.3	40.3	41.1	~	32.8
Actually attempted suicide in the past 12 months	15.9	12.8	12.2	~	7.9
Ever smoked a cigarette (lifetime use)	46.5	40.4	34.9	27.1	52.1
Are "current" smokers (smoked on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	15.8	13.2	11.4	9.7	20.0
Ever smoked daily (at least 1 cigarette every day for 30 days)	10.2	10.2	8.3	8.5	12.9
Are "frequent" smokers (smoked on 20 or more of the previous 30 days)	4.7	3.8	2.4	2.2	8.1
Are "current" smokeless tobacco users (used chew or smokeless tobacco on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	7.4	6.6	6.5	6.4	12.9
Ever had consumed alcohol (lifetime alcohol use)	63.2	61.3	55.8	44.8	77.8
Are "current" alcohol users (drank alcohol on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	30.2	27.1	22.9	~	46.5
"Binge drink" (episodic heavy drinking, consuming 5 or more drinks at one occasion)	17.9	15.1	11.9	13.1	32.7

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data (percent of students who...)	Grades 7-8¹				Montana High School 2007²
	2001	2003	2005	2007	
Ever used marijuana (lifetime marijuana use)	21.0	19.4	15.1	15.3	39.1
Are "current" marijuana users (used marijuana 1 or more times in the previous 30 days)	12.5	11.2	8.5	~	21.0
Ever used inhalants (lifetime inhalant use)	15.4	16.9	15.0	17.2	16.2
Ever used methamphetamines (lifetime use)	5.7	4.6	2.8	3.0	4.6
Ever had sexual intercourse	19.3	20.2	18.6	16.0	45.7
Are currently sexually active (had sexual intercourse in the past 3 months)	9.7	9.4	8.3	~	31.2
Of those who ever had sex, the percent who are currently abstinent (no sexual intercourse in the past 3 months)	44.3	47.1	49.9	~	26.0
Of those who ever had sex, the percent who used alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse	37.8	32.8	29.4	~	26.0
Are attempting to lose weight	42.4	42.5	42.6	42.9	43.6
Participated in 60 minutes of physical activity* per day on five or more of the past seven days			32.2	56.0	44.9
Watch 3 or more hours of TV on a school night	28.9	30.7	29.8	27.0	22.2
Used alcohol before age 13	43.4	40.2	35.5	32.4	25.9
Smoked a cigarette before age 13	25.5	21.3	17.4	15.0	14.7
Tried marijuana before age 13	13.6	14.2	10.4	9.9	9.5
Had sexual intercourse before age 13	9.6	10.9	10.1	10.3	5.1

yrbs\comparison Grades 7-8

¹ These data represent the Grades 7-8 respondents only.

² These data are statistically valid and can be used to make inferences about the health risk behaviors of all high school students in all high schools in Montana.

* Physical activity is defined as activity that increases your heart rate and makes you breathe hard.